In the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method of promoting tissue repair wherein extracellular matrix of the tissue has been degraded comprising administering ~~a compound~~ an antibody, which modulates function of beta 1 integrin to a tissue in need of repair, wherein the ~~compound~~ antibody binds to the beta 1 integrin molecule in a region of amino acid residues 82 to 87 comprising residues TAEKLK (SEQ ID NO: 1) of the sequence of the mature beta 1 integrin molecule, and functional modulation of beta 1 integrin results in at least one of (i) an inhibition of the apoptotic pathway, (ii) an alteration in the metalloproteinase balance or (iii) an increase in the anabolism of the extracellular matrix.

2.-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the modulation of the apoptotic activity has a resultant modulation in the metalloproteinase (MMP) balance.

5.-15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~15~~ 1, wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody produced by the commercial clone JB1a.

17.-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~15~~ 1, wherein the antibody is a ~~humanised~~ humanized antibody, a chimeric antibody or a human antibody.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~15~~ 1, wherein the antibody is a fragment of the monoclonal antibody produced by the commercial clone JB1a.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the functional modulation causes ~~the~~ shedding of the beta 1 integrin.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the alteration in the metalloproteinase balance results in at least one of (i) an increase in inactive MMP9, and (ii) a decrease in MMP1.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, where functional modulation further includes an increase in TIMP1.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein promotion of tissue repair is used for treating a disease where the extracellular matrix is degraded.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein promotion of tissue repair is for treating lung emphysema.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein promotion of tissue repair is for treating chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

28. (Currently Amended) A method of treating tissue injury wherein extracellular matrix of the tissue is degraded comprising administering an antibody to beta 1 integrin to the tissue in need of treatment, wherein the antibody binds to the beta 1 integrin molecule in a region of amino acid residues 82 to 87 comprising residues TAEKLK (SEQ ID NO: 1) of the sequence of the mature beta 1 integrin molecule, and wherein the antibody modulates function of beta 1 integrin resulting in at least one of (i) an inhibition of the apoptotic pathway, (ii) an alteration in the metalloproteinase balance or (iii) an increase in the anabolism of the extracellular matrix.

29. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 28, wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody produced by the commercial clone JB1a.

30. (Cancelled)

31. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the tissue to be repaired is at least one selected from the group consisting of skin tissue, tissue of the central nervous system, liver tissue, kidney tissue,

tissue of the cardiovascular system, bone tissue and cartilage.

32. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein the tissue is tissue of the central nervous system.

33. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein promotion of tissue repair treats chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

34. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein the chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is lung emphysema.